



Audubon Leaves

A Publication of the South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society

75 Years

April 2019

Volume 71, Number 3

Serving St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties Since 1944

A SPECIAL 75TH YEAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Submitted by [Marge Riemenschneider](#)

Our April 14th membership meeting will be held at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, 57057 Ash Road, Osceola. It is on the county line between our two counties. You will not need to pay an entrance fee if you mention at the gate house that you are attending the Audubon meeting. Our membership meeting will start at 3:30 p.m. with a dinner following at 5:00 p.m. The special speaker for our meeting is Evie Kirkwood, the director of St. Joseph County Parks. We hope you will plan to attend the meeting and the dinner.

We have rented both floors of Baugo Station, our meeting site at the park. There will be plenty of room since no other groups will be using the building that day. Our dinner will be upstairs with historical displays downstairs; there is an elevator if you don't like stairs. It is a short walk from the parking lot to the building. There is very limited parking near the building for those who need to be closer.

If it is a nice day you may want to arrive early with your binoculars and enjoy birding before the meeting. See the inside of the last page of this issue of the *Audubon Leaves* for directions for registering for the dinner. We need to have your registration by April 1st. I hope you will plan to attend.

NOMINATIONS

Submitted by [Heidi Gray](#), *Nominating Committee Chair*

At the March membership meeting, the slate of candidates for the April election was presented. They are as follows:

President: Lindsay Grossmann
Vice President: Heidi Gray
Secretary: John Bentley
Treasurer: Martha Kummerer
Director to 2022: Kristen Sweinhart
Director to 2022: ? (this could be you!)

At the April membership meeting and prior to the actual election, nominations can be made from the floor. Hope you can attend the meeting for this important event.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Submitted by [Carol Goodall](#), *Field Trip Chair*

On April 6th we will do a Woodcock Walk at Potato Creek State Park (see the March *Audubon Leaves* for more information). Meet at the Tulip Poplar Picnic Area in Potato Creek State Park at 7:00 p.m. There is a gate fee into the park. Any questions, contact Carol Goodall at (574) 276-7249 (text is best) or fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org.

MAY BIRD COUNT

Submitted by [Jude Keltner](#), *St. Joseph County Count Compiler*

Sponsored by the Indiana Audubon Society, the statewide Big May Day Bird Count is always conducted on the second Saturday in May. This year the count will be held on May 11th. SBEAS will have groups covering both St. Joseph County and Elkhart County, a large area that needs many feet on the ground. Folks who are unable to participate in the field can help by contributing their feeder/yard/birdbath lists. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact the appropriate county compiler:

Elkhart County - Lindsay Grossmann, (574) 807-4443, earthlindz@gmail.com

St. Joseph County - Jude Keltner, (574) 276-6348, jude.keltner@gmail.com

Watch for additional details in the May issue of the *Audubon Leaves*.

APRIL CALENDAR



- 6 Field Trip at Potato Creek State Park, 7 PM
- 13 Board Meeting at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, 1 PM
- 14 75th Anniversary Celebration and Membership Meeting at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, 3:30 PM
- 17 May *Audubon Leaves* Articles Due
- 22 Earth Day
- 27 Red Barn Rummage Sale at St. Patrick's County Park, 8 AM

FROM THE MINUTES

Submitted by [John Bentley](#), Secretary

President Lindsay Grossmann called the March 10, 2019 SBEAS membership meeting at the Elkhart Conservation Club to order at 2:00 p.m. Twenty-five (25) members and guests were in attendance. Lindsay called for bird sightings, which included Sandhill Cranes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Greater Scaup on Notre Dame Lakes, a Turkey Vulture, White-winged Scoters on the river, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Treasurer's Report

Martha Kummerer reported the following account balances as of February 28th: operating checking account (Key Bank) – \$18,046.92; Woolman–Groet–Miller checking account (TCU) – \$9,004.58.

Committee Reports

Conservation

- Laura stated that for the Audubon Climate Watch Program in mid-January to mid-February, 16 volunteers covered 33 blocks counting nuthatches and bluebirds.
- Regarding the Open Space & Agricultural Alliance, which wants to slow the rush to industrial development near New Carlisle, Garrett Blad said: "The good news? We are effectively slowing down progress on the mega industrial project (IEC)! This is thanks to the hundreds of people who have come to meetings, spoken up, and told our elected officials that we love this land and refuse to lose it to reckless development. The bad news? We have a long fight ahead of us and, honestly, we are overwhelmed with the reports, bureaucracy, and meetings we have to attend to slow this dangerous project. That's why we need your help. We need everyone to fight this if we are going to win."

Education

Tai Gunter reported for Melissa Gunter that our activities at Family Science Night at Hamilton Traditional School and the Garden Expo at the Elkhart 4H fairgrounds in Goshen were quite successful. A presentation to a Michiana AARP group may generate some new members. We will participate in the Earth Day celebration at the Potawatomi Zoo, and volunteers will be needed.

Nominating Committee

Heidi reported the following slate of officers to be voted on at the April meeting:

President	Lindsay Grossmann
Vice President	Heidi Gray
Treasurer	Martha Kummerer
Secretary	John Bentley
Director	Kristen Sweinhart

There is an additional Director position that needs to be filled; nominations are welcome.

Hospitality

Alice Bentley recognized refreshment providers Ruth Middleton, Marie Smith, Sue Stuckman, and Ellen Lechlitrer.

Other Business

Lindsay encouraged people to look into the Elkhart City Birding Contest (see the Elkhart City Parks website) and the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

ANNUAL BIG RED BARN RUMMAGE SALE AT ST. PATRICK'S COUNTY PARK, SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Submitted by [Doug and Heidi Gray](#), Barn Sale Co-Chairs

We hope you can become part of this important event that provides needed money to run our Society. There are several ways you can help. You can donate unneeded items. These enable us to have the sale. You can help setup and price items for sale at St Patrick's County Park, 50651 Laurel Rd, South Bend. The park is at the state line just east of the St. Joseph River. Donors can drop off items from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 24th and from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 25th and 26th. You can help on the day of the sale as cashier or by helping customers. Shoppers line up before our 8:00 a.m. opening time. On Saturdays, admission is charged at the park beginning at 10:00 a.m. Or you can come and shop the sale!

Donate: All kinds of household items like dishes, puzzles, toys, linens, sewing supplies, lamps, home office items, books and magazines, working electrical appliances, hobby items, pictures, bird related items, rugs, and furniture (except large stuffed). Popular items are clean clothing and jewelry for all ages. We sell a lot of holiday decorations and home decor items. Lawn and home shop items should not be overlooked. Plants, both divided perennials and houseplants, sell well. Please label each plant. If you need someone to pick up your items, we have a few people who can do this. Call Heidi Gray at (574) 339-2675 and someone will pick up your donation. Home baked goods sell well. They can be brought with your other items on the morning of the sale. If you are planning to come to our April meeting at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, and you only have a box or two, bring it along and we'll get it at the meeting.

The only things we cannot take are old TVs, VCRs, and large stuffed furniture. These things do not sell well and the service organizations that pick up our leftovers do not want them. We would have to pay to dispose of these items.

Help with Setup and Pricing: On Wednesday, April 24th, beginning at 1:00 p.m., you can help setup tables, post signs, and begin pricing. We'll be able to receive items after 2:00 p.m. On Thursday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. you can help receive, price, and distribute items to be sold.

Help on Sale Day: Cashiers, baggers, baked goods sellers, and general helpers are needed on April 27th from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Help is especially needed during our first two "rush" hours. We have a light lunch for all day helpers in the small kitchen in the barn.

Clean Up and Packing is also very important. Usually, the early helpers are pretty tired by noon since some have been working since Wednesday, so it's nice to have fresh helpers come in around noon to start combining items. Then we need help putting away unneeded tables, packing boxes, and finally making sure everything is clean and neat.

To volunteer for any of these, call Heidi Gray at (574) 339-2675, or just show up. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

BIRDS OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY: WARBLERS

Submitted by [Vic Riemenschneider](#)

This is the second installment of comparing a 1945-1962 bird list for St. Joseph County by Thomas Gadacz, University of Notre Dame (1963) with our database records (1983-2010). I forgot to mention in the last article (*Audubon Leaves*, Feb 2019) that the dates in parentheses are the dates when species are possibly present. If there has been a species name change, it is listed after the name from the paper. The first set of dates after the species name are spring dates given in the 1963 paper (1945-1962) and the second set are fall dates from that resource. Dates from our database (1983-2010) are the 3rd and 4th sets in parentheses. Dates are the earliest and latest reported dates for the species. An ND means no dates were given. An * indicates nesting records. There are 37 warbler species listed by Gadacz.

The following warblers are summer residents and nesters; they arrive in late April or early May and leave in fall (only the early spring date and late fall date are given): **Prothonotary Warbler***, (ND), (ND), (Apr 18), (Aug 25) is a very beautiful uncommon warbler of our wetlands. **Yellow Warbler***, (Apr 21), (Sep 19), (Apr 8), (Oct 9) is a common summer resident and nester in our wetlands with most sightings from May through early July. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, (May 9), (Sep 25), (May 5-Jul 10), (Aug 24-Oct 13) is a migrant and sometimes summer resident. The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Indiana (1998) listed a confirmed nesting in St. Joseph County. **Ovenbird***, (May 2), (Oct 15), (May 1), (Oct 28) nests in our quality woodlands. **Louisiana Waterthrush**, (Apr 18-Jun 1), (ND), (Apr 12-Jul 3), (Sep 28) is a migrant and possible summer resident since the 1998 breeding bird survey had a confirmed nesting. **Yellowthroat* (Common Yellowthroat)**, (Apr 14), (Oct 22), (Apr 23), (Oct 11) nests in our wetlands. **Yellow-breasted Chat*** (now placed with the Icteridae [e.g. Bobolink, meadowlark, etc.]), (May 12), (Jul 30), (May 8), (Jul 12) is a migrant and uncommon summer resident based on the number of sightings in recent years. **American Redstart**, (Apr 15-Jun 3), (Aug 30-Oct 7), (Apr 26), (Oct 11) is a summer nester and resident.

Next is the list of common spring and fall migrants usually with peak arrivals in May and September: **Black and White Warbler**, (Apr 11-Jun 1), (Sep 2-27), (Mar 31-Jun 12), (Aug 12-Oct 2) is a common migrant of woodlands. **Golden-winged Warbler**, (May 5-25), (Sep 9-14), (May 8-19), (Sep 1-10) is presently considered a declining species. **Blue-winged Warbler**, (May 5-20), (ND), (Apr 25-Jun 30), (Aug 11-Sep 10) had a confirmed nesting in the county during the 1998 breeding bird census. **Tennessee Warbler**, (Apr 23-May 30), (Aug 30-Oct 5), (Apr 28-Jun 10), (Aug 19-Oct 26). **Orange-crowned Warbler**, (May 5-15), (Sep 26-Oct 2), (Apr 15-May 20), (Sep 7-Dec 23) is a common spring migrant with scattered dates in the fall. **Nashville Warbler**, (May 2-25), (Sep 15-Oct 6), (Apr 25-May 28), (Aug 23-Oct 20). **Parula Warbler (Northern Parula)**, (May 6-20), (Aug 30-Sep 27), (Apr 17-Jun 13), (Aug 28-Oct 4). **Magnolia Warbler**, (May 4-Jun 3), (Aug 27-Nov 2), (Apr 20-May 28), (Aug 19-Oct 14). **Cape May Warbler**, (May 3-30), (Sep 2-30), (Apr 26-May 22), (Aug 19-Oct 15). **Black-Throated Blue Warbler**, (May 11-15), (Sep 5-Oct 1), (May 8-17), (Sep 5-Oct 10). **Myrtle Warbler (Yellow-rumped Warbler)**, (Feb 15-Jun 1), (Aug 25-Dec 30), (Feb 28-May 22), (Sep 12-Jan 3) has almost continuous sightings from fall through spring. **Black-throated Green Warbler**, (May 3-Jun 1), (Sep 3-30), (Apr 16-Jun 11), (Jul 25-Oct 13). **Blackburnian Warbler**, (May 2-Jun 1), (Sep 7-27), (Apr 25-May 21), (Aug 30-Dec 2). **Bay-breasted Warbler**, (May 14-Jun 2), (Aug 30-Oct 8), (May 8-20), (Aug 30-Oct 25). **Blackpoll Warbler**, (Apr 30-Jun 5), (Sep 5-Nov 25), (May 8-22), (Aug 19-Oct 14). **Palm Warbler**, (Apr 20-Jun 22), (Aug 30-Oct 2), (Apr 15-May 24), (Sep 1-Dec 18). **Northern Waterthrush**, (Apr 21-May 5), (ND), (Apr 6-Jun 19), (Sep 11-Oct 6) is a secretive migrant along streams and wetlands. **Connecticut Warbler**, (May 3-Jun 2), (Aug 27-Sep 30), (Apr 30-May 18), (Sep 1-22). **Mourning Warbler**, (May 14-Jun 1), (ND), (May 9-25), (Aug 29-Oct 21) is an elusive migrant of woodland herb layers. **Hooded Warbler**, (ND), (ND), (May 5-Jul 29), (Aug 7-Sep 29) may be a summer resident but is still uncommon during the June to August period. **Wilson's Warbler**, (May 9-Jun 2), (Sep 2-19), (May 8-28), (Aug 19-Oct 19). **Canada Warbler**, (May 15-22), (Aug 30-Sep 19), (May 10-Jul 26), (Aug 24-Sep 3) is occasionally found in the summer.

Some warblers are rare or unusual visitors: **Worm-eating Warbler**, (ND), (ND), (ND), (ND) is a very rare visitor in our area with only three sightings in our database, all in early May of 1994 and 1996. **Kirtland's Warbler**, (ND), (ND), (ND), (ND) has no sightings in our database for either St. Joseph or Elkhart counties but is listed by Gadacz. **Pine Warbler**, (May 19-25), (Sep 7), (Mar 12-Jun 7), (Jul 4-Nov 8), (also two records Jan 9-13; very late fall migrant or very early spring migrant?) is a migrant with occasional unusual arrivals. **Prairie Warbler**, (ND), (ND), (Apr 22), (Sep 17) is more common in the southern third of the state and is a rare summer resident in St. Joseph County; habitat loss has made it very uncommon. **Kentucky Warbler**, (ND), (ND), (Apr 20-May 27), (ND) is a more southern forest species and we have only a few sightings in the spring.

Warblers that are mainly found in the spring: **Cerulean Warbler**, (May 4-Jun 1), (ND), (May 8-Jun 17), (Aug 21) is a May migrant that is mainly identified by song since it resides in the canopy; only one fall date is recorded in the database but it was listed as a possible breeder in the 1998 Breeding Bird Survey. **Yellow-throated Warbler**, (May 3-26), (ND), (Apr 21-May 18), (Sep 10) is also known as Sycamore Warbler and is mainly a spring migrant with only one fall date.

Review of IN-Bird archives and eBird files may have extended the dates above but I did not have time to check those. The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Indiana (1998) was the source of nesting information.

Good areas to visit in St. Joseph County are The Res in Mishawaka, Rum Village Park in South Bend, and the County and State parks. There were many sightings from Elkhart County that I did not include because the Gadacz list only referred to St. Joseph County. Your bird sightings are important in knowing our bird populations.

SANCTUARY REPORT

Submitted by [Doug and Heidi Gray](#), Sanctuary Co-Chairs

On March 9th we had a work day. Eight of us came out to do some late winter tasks. We attempted to burn the large brush pile. Several spots on the pile got started, enough so that one of our concerned neighbors at the apartments on the south side of the Sanctuary called the Mishawaka Fire Department. The fire trucks lined up at the fence to see where the “20-foot-wide grass fire” was at. One of the firemen was standing on top of the truck with binoculars. The fire chief pulled into the Sanctuary and spoke with us about the fire. He saw that we were “responsible people” and that we had a front-end loader (our tractor with snow plow) just in case. He suggested we contact the Penn Fire Department (Sanctuary is in Penn district) next time we burn. We’ve never contacted them before and this is the first time a concerned neighbor has called the fire department. We will definitely call the next time!

In addition to dealing with the burn pile, all the nest boxes were cleaned out. Bluebird, screech owl and Wood Duck boxes are ready for this year’s new bird life. Thanks to Vic and Marge Riemenschneider, Dale and Jude Keltner, Marilyn Cook, and Bruce Cates for their help.

PLEASE NOTE: We have canceled the work day scheduled for April 13th so that we can focus on the 75th anniversary preparations.

SBEAS IN DC

Submitted by [Tai Gunter](#), Membership Chair

On March 6th-7th, I had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. as a representative from the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society as well as Audubon Great Lakes, a regional office of the National Audubon Society. National Audubon Society is a member of Healing Our Waters, a group dedicated to “securing a sustainable Great Lakes restoration plan and the federal funding to implement it.”

Each year, they host “Great Lakes Day,” an opportunity for representatives of different conservation groups from across the Great Lakes to come together, learn more about the current goals of Healing Our Waters, and schedule meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill about their goals and initiatives.

The main goals that Healing Our Waters was targeting during Great Lakes Day 2019 were as follows:

- Continue support at \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federally funded program that gives money to local projects helping the Great Lakes.
- Increase federal funding for clean drinking water in the Great Lakes – to \$8.7 billion annually.
- Stop the spread of invasive Asian Carp from reaching Lake Michigan, something that would be devastating to the local fish population in Lake Michigan and its tributaries (including the St. Joseph River).

Our group representing Indiana consisted of two representatives from Save the Dunes, two community members from Gary, Indiana, a representative from the Blue Green Alliance, and myself. We split up the duties of talking to our legislators. Personally, I met with U.S. House Representative Jackie Walorski, and a legislative staffer from U.S. Senator Todd Young’s office. During our meetings I focused on representing the Society and its goals. The Great Lakes are obviously a vital habitat for birds, and a huge stopping point for migratory birds on their long trips. I know that many of us in the Society love to bird the Great Lakes, and others enjoy birding here along the St. Joseph River, which flows into Lake Michigan. Preserving the Great Lakes is critical for bird conservation.

A highlight of the trip was our meeting with Congresswoman Walorski – last year a few members from SBEAS met with her in her Mishawaka office to talk about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There we learned that the congresswoman is an enthusiast birder! She continued this sentiment during my meeting with her in Washington, and shared stories of timing her vacations with bird migration through Florida. Congresswoman Walorski is a huge supporter of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and is committed to doing everything she can to stop the spread of Asian Carp. She expressed regret in not being able to attend the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival last year – and she says she’s going to make a real effort to be there this year. Look for her there!

The trip to Washington, D.C. was a true joy and I enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about legislative initiatives to protect the water of the Great Lakes and protect the funding that can help save bird habitat in our area. If you have any questions about the legislation or would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me – membership@sbeaudubon.org.



PHOTO QUIZ!

The winner of the March photo quiz was Kristin Hornburg, who entered one of the five correct identifications of the bird in the March *Audubon Leaves*, the Belted Kingfisher. Kristin was awarded a \$20 gift card to the South Bend Farmer's Market. Congratulations, Kristin! Read about the Belted Kingfisher in the article to the right.



© Sam Ashley

The April *Audubon Leaves* Photo Quiz is shown above. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing, and the winner will receive a \$20 gift card. Send responses along with your mailing address to Leaves@sbeaudubon.org with PHOTO QUIZ in the subject line. You can also send a response in the mail to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 SR 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Good luck!

BELTED KINGFISHER (*MEGACERYLE ALCYON*)

Submitted by [Susan Taylor](#)

According to legend, the kingfisher, originally somberly clothed but liberated from Noah's Ark, flew toward the setting sun, whereupon the sky was reflected from its back, while its breast was scorched by the rays of the sun, and ever afterwards its plumage showed the colors of the evening sky. The male Belted Kingfisher has a single blue-grey band across its white underparts, while the female has a rusty band below the grey band. The female is slightly larger than the male.

As the name implies, the Belted Kingfisher is a fisherman. He perches on branches near water or hovers above. Once he spots a fish, he plunges head-first into the water, striking his prey with his long, straight bill. Then, he takes it to a nearby perch where he beats it to death before swallowing it. Parents drop dead fish into the water for their young to retrieve. But, like any good angler, he resents intruders into his territory, so after ten days of training, the young are chased out.

This bird nests in horizontal tunnels made in riverbanks or sandbanks, excavated by both parents. The female lays five to eight eggs and both parents incubate the eggs and feed the young.

Primary resources used in this article include:

Cornell Laboratories of Ornithology. 2019. All About Birds: Belted Kingfisher (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Belted_Kingfisher.html).

Forshaw, Joseph, Steve Howell, Terrence Lindsey, and Rich Stallcup. 2002. *Guide to Birding*. Fog City Press, San Francisco, CA., p. 223. ISBN: 1-877019 25-19.

THE CONSERVATION FUND, KANKAKEE MARSH, AND YOU

Submitted by [Lindsay Grossmann](#), President

Our March meeting was a muddy one filled with yummy treats, warm coffee, and great conversation. Thanks to all those who could make it. Our speaker was Peg Kohring from The Conservation Fund. Many of us had never heard of the Fund because they do not do much advertising or fundraising – but they do great conservation work, mainly in the realm of real estate deals to preserve land all over the country, including helping several land trusts SBEAS supports in the area. Peg appealed to members of our Society to help with their current local focus: The Grand Kankakee Marsh and possible restoration efforts in the area. There is one critical way that we as a Society can help: gather data of current bird use within the watershed. More planning will need to be done, including defining the exact areas to focus on, the surveying protocol, and more, but it's clear that this is an area that we as a Society can really help in. If this sounds particularly interesting to you, I am taking names for those that might want to survey as we continue to develop this new project.

Want to recycle your Styrofoam? If you have excess polystyrene (the kind used in packaging, not for food), bring it to our meetings so members Vonda Bell or Laura Fuderer can transport it to a company that will recycle it.

BIRDS AT RISK - NORTHERN HARRIER

Submitted by [Melissa Gunter](#), *Education Chair*

The following is the sixth in a series of articles featuring "Birds at Risk" in Indiana. These are birds with declining or threatened populations in our State that need help to remain safe from things like habitat loss and climate change. In each article, one bird at risk will be discussed along with ways to help them survive. We will be featuring a variety of birds with different habitats so that everyone can participate in one way or another.

The Northern Harrier is a narrow-bodied, long-tailed, hawk with a face that resembles that of an owl. Northern Harriers breed during the summer months in grassy wetlands primarily across Canada, but also in the northern parts of the United States, including Michigan and northern Indiana. They become a more common sighting across the continental United States during the winter months because of their migration here in search of food. Their winter days are most commonly spent flying over fields, marshes, and other open areas hunting for their beloved meal: mice and voles.



Wikimedia Commons

During the mid-twentieth century, the Northern Harrier population took a hit due to the high use of DDT and other harmful pesticides used in farming. Since the ban on DDT, their population has made a small comeback; however, issues such as wetland management and habitat loss continue to plague the Northern Harrier's population. Today, the Northern Harrier is listed as State Endangered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Division of Fish & Wildlife. Wetland owners and landowners can help protect Northern Harriers by following one or more of the actions listed below:

1. **Wetland Owners:** Owners of wetlands should consider the following management recommendations discussed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory at <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/description/10938>:
 - a. Northern Harriers nest on wetland grounds; therefore, maintain water levels to less than 6 inches during breeding season (April-July).
 - b. Minimize grazing in wetland habitat to prevent Northern Harrier nests from getting trampled and destroyed during breeding season (April-July).
 - c. Prevent woody vegetation from growing in wetland habitat by periodically performing controlled burns in the grassy wetland.
2. **Landowners:** If you own several acres of land, consider converting your property to its original habitat. Northern Harriers prefer large, undisturbed wetlands for hunting and nesting; therefore, small fragmented pockets of habitat are not enough. Restoring Indiana's environment to its native landscape will help the Northern Harrier population and other wetland animals thrive. The Indiana DNR provides financial and technical assistance to landowners interested wetland restoration. For more information, go to www.in.gov/dnr/healthyriver/6515.htm.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Submitted by [Tai Gunter](#), *Membership Chair*

Please welcome our new members: Connie Roberts, Joleen Bartlett, Sylvia Steed, James E Acheson, Juliet Green, Anne Schneider, Myron Yoder, Anna Miller, Enos Yoder, Peter Sparks, Cheryl Lichkai, Lisa Kirk, Noreen Deane-Moran, Daniel Balog, Sheila Sheridan, Ann E Kuntz, Margaret Whitmer, Victoria Hyland, Dale Gibson, John Kittredge, Jessica Kimmet, and David Gilbank.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions around your membership or renewals.

For those of you not on Facebook, to view pictures of our recent events, you may visit our Facebook page via the internet at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthBendElkhartAudubon/>.

For those of you on Facebook please like our page: South Bend Elkhart Audubon.

Follow us on Instagram [@sbeaudubon](#).

NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OR CHAPTER ONLY

(For a renewal, only include your address if it has changed)

NAME: _____
FULL ADDRESS: _____

____ I want to join or renew my membership in National Audubon Society. I will receive the AUDUBON magazine plus membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society. Make check payable to National Audubon Society for \$20.00.

____ I want to join or renew my membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society only. Make check payable to South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society for \$20.00 (all the money goes to our local Society). You do not receive the AUDUBON magazine.

All memberships will receive the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter, *Audubon Leaves*. Please send the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter by:

____ mail ____ email email address _____

Can we contact you via email when necessary (such as to notify you of meeting cancellations)? ____ yes ____ no

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: SBEAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PO BOX 581, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546.

REGISTER NOW FOR OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Submitted by [Marge Riemenschneider](#)

We hope you are planning to attend our special 75th anniversary celebration meeting with a catered Polish dinner by Faulkner's in Mishawaka. It will be a hot sit-down dinner with a speaker. Our meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. before the dinner. Fill out and send in the form below with \$10 per couple or family, or \$5 per person. You can also pay the fee using PayPal by going to <http://www.sbeaudubon.org/make-a-donation.html>; if you prefer this option, please send an email with the information requested in the form below to membership@sbeaudubon.org when you submit your PayPal donation to register for the dinner and meeting. We hope to see you all there!

REGISTRATION FOR 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER AT FERRETTIE-BAUGO COUNTY PARK

April 14, 2019; Dinner Starts at 5:00 p.m.

NAME(S): _____

FULL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER IN COUPLE/FAMILY _____

Couple/Family - \$10.00

1 Adult - \$5.00

If paying by check, please make it payable to South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society.

Please list the name(s) of people attending.

IF PAYING BY CHECK, MAIL TO: SBEAS DINNER MEETING, PO BOX 581, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546.

The closing date to receive your information is April 1, 2019.

Audubon Leaves

South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society
Membership Chair - Tai Gunter
PO Box 581
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

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DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

South Bend-Elkhart Audubon (574) 334-7761

South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Officers

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(574) 807-4443

Vice President: Heidi Gray

(574) 339-2675

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(574) 656-3511

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(574) 453-6475

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society publishes the *Audubon Leaves*

nine times a year: February, March, April, May, Summer, September, October, November, and December-January. Comments and members' articles are welcome; deadline for the May issue is **April 17th**. Send comments or articles to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 State Road 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554;

or email to: Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

GO PAPERLESS!

E-subscribe to the *Audubon Leaves* at Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.
Include your present mailing address, and put "Leaves" in the subject line.
We'll do the rest!

IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

Submitted by [Lindsay Grossmann](#), President

Did you know that South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society is one of the most active Audubon chapters in the state? We thrive because of dedicated volunteers at all levels of the organization. We become a better Society through continuous growth and flourish as a result of diverse opinions. Right now, we are in immediate need of a Program Chair to find speakers for our membership meetings and an Historian. For more information, contact me at president@sbeaudubon.org or (574) 807-4443 to inquire how we might best put your skills and talents to use to better our Society.

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society is on the web at www.sbeaudubon.org



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